

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MS. PELOSI

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. PELOSI moves that the managers on the part of the House at the Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill H.R. 4811, making appropriations for Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and related programs for the year ending September 30, 2001 be instructed to insist on the highest possible funding level for Debt Restructuring, and on provisions authorizing a United States contribution to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund without unnecessary legislative restrictions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I offer this motion to emphasize that it is imperative that the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations bill provide both the highest possible funding level for debt restructuring, and for the authorization for a United States contribution to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund, HIPC, without unnecessary legislative restrictions.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, this House had a passionate debate about debt relief and a historic vote in favor of funding this much-needed relief. As a result, the House bill now contains full funding for the amount requested in fiscal year 2001 for a U.S. contribution to the HIPC Trust Fund. However, the bill is still short of the full pending request for debt restructuring by some \$238 million. The Senate bill contains even less than the House bill.

In addition, both the House and Senate appropriations bills contain unnecessary legislative restrictions on U.S. participation in the HIPC Trust Fund, such as a moratorium on new lending and other eligibility restrictions. Just yesterday, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator HELMS, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Senator GRAMM, sent a letter to Secretary Summers outlining 17 specific conditions for debt relief that must be met prior to U.S. participation in the Trust Fund. The conditions outlined in their letter would require the IMF to completely revamp their lending procedures, and would also eliminate 36 of the 41 of the countries currently eligible for debt relief.

The House sent a strong signal of support for debt relief earlier this year. If we are serious about providing real

debt relief, it is essential that the conference agreement on the bill fully fund debt relief and authorize a U.S. contribution to the HIPC Trust Fund without unnecessary restrictions. My motion instructs conferees to insist on these items.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the authorizing committee, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, has some minor objections to a provision contained therein, but I do not have, and I think that we can certainly work with that committee to work out the differences and, therefore, I will accept the motion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), a leader on this issue from the authorizing committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and again I rise to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for the wonderful work that she has done on this very important issue.

It is extremely important for our conferees to be instructed to do everything that can be done to honor the full request of the President. This has been described as one of those issues that has brought us all together, and I am very pleased and proud that I have received many calls of compliments from other countries, and of course a lot of religious organizations under Jubilee 2000, as well as nongovernment organizations, commending us all for the debate that we had on this issue, commending us all for rising above petty differences and coming together around one of the most important issues of our time.

Because of the work that we are doing, we are going to be able to get some of these countries out from under this debt that is drowning them, and I am very appreciative for the opportunity to support this motion to instruct our conferees.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I just want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her leadership. It was her amendment which increased the funding in the original bill when it was on the floor. I also want to thank the chairman of the committee for accepting this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct

offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. CALLAHAN, PORTER, WOLF, PACKARD, KNOLLENBERG, KINGSTON, LEWIS of California, WICKER, YOUNG of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SABO, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA) of the schedule for the rest of today and the remainder of the week.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will not be in session tomorrow. The House will next meet on Monday, October 23, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow. On Monday, there will be no votes in the House. Any requests for recorded votes on Monday will be rolled until Tuesday after 2 p.m.

On Tuesday and the balance of the week the House will consider the following measures:

H.R. 4656, the Lake Tahoe Basin School Site Land Conveyance Act;

H.R. 4577, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Conference Report;

H.R. 4942, the District of Columbia Appropriations Conference Report;

H.R. 2614, the Certified Development Company Program Improvements Act of 2000 Conference Report;

And the Foreign Operations Appropriations Conference Report.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider any other conference reports that may become available throughout the week.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if I could inquire of the gentleman from Texas, are there any other bills on next Tuesday that the gentleman expects to bring to the floor other than the suspension bills?

Mr. BONILLA. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the Foreign Ops bill

is expected to be filed Monday evening. In terms of additional suspensions, is that specifically what the gentleman is inquiring about?

Mr. BONIOR. Other bills besides the suspension bills.

Mr. BONILLA. The Committee on Rules is meeting on Monday night, and we hope to have the Foreign Ops bill ready for Tuesday.

Mr. BONIOR. So we expect to have the Foreign Ops bill on the floor on Tuesday?

Mr. BONILLA. That is correct.

Mr. BONIOR. Are there any votes besides the suspensions that are going to occur before 6 p.m.?

Mr. BONILLA. Yes, we do expect votes at 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

Mr. BONIOR. But beyond suspension bills, does the gentleman expect votes on other bills before 6?

Mr. BONILLA. It is possible that non-suspension bills will be held as of 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

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Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, could the gentleman tell me when we expect to adjourn sine die?

Mr. BONILLA. I wish I could. At this point, the remainder of the schedule has not been determined.

Mr. BONIOR. May I ask the distinguished gentleman from Texas when we expect to vote on the minimum wage bill?

Mr. BONILLA. At this point that has not been determined.

Mr. BONIOR. How about the prescription drug bill?

Mr. BONILLA. At this point that has not been determined.

Mr. BONIOR. How about the HMO bill?

Mr. BONILLA. Same answer.

Mr. BONIOR. How about the education program that we talked about in the debate a little earlier this afternoon?

Mr. BONILLA. Same answer.

Mr. BONIOR. Well, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, and I will end with this comment, we are here 19 days into the fiscal year, the President has received and signed three appropriations bills out of 13, and the work of the country is not done. The work on key issues like minimum wage, HMO reform, prescription drugs, hate crimes, and the list goes on, is not done. We are taking a 5-day period before we vote. We will not come back until next Tuesday.

I just want to make it very clear this evening so no one misunderstands that these CR's will not be tolerated by us or by the President of the United States beyond Wednesday. We are going to do them in 24-hour increments, and we are going to get the work of the country done.

I just want to tell my friend from Texas and his colleagues and my colleagues here on this side of the aisle,

we will not yield and we will not leave here until we get some of these major issues done.

We want the minimum wage done. I am not going to limit myself to what we want done, but I will tell you we will not leave here certainly if the educational pieces are not done; and that includes 100,000 teachers, the construction for modernization of our schools, as well as the after-school program and teacher certification. Those are key pieces to what we think we should be able to accomplish as a Congress.

And so, anyway, my colleagues are forewarned of our concern, and we hope that we can do this in an expeditious manner to take care of the needs of the country and so we can get back to our home districts and do not expect a CR to run beyond 24 hours if in fact the business of the House is not done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to take this opportunity to give the House a status report on what is probably the major bill that still remains before we get out of here on the appropriations front. We had yet another meeting of the Labor-HHS conference, the seventh meeting we have had, I believe. And at the beginning of the meeting, we were told by the Senate Chair of the conference that he would not sign a conference report one dime above the level contained in the conference report for Labor, Health, and Education.

At that point, frankly, I asked if I could be pointed in the direction of whatever room or whatever person would be in a position to negotiate so that we could reach an agreement on that bill. And at that point the White House and those of us on our side of the aisle, myself and the Senator representing the Senate caucus, laid a compromise on the table which was in essence a 20 percent reduction in the amount of funding that we have been asking but insisting that we still meet the needs on school construction, on class size reduction, on teacher training, on after-school programs, on Pell, and on IDEA.

We presented the offer, which is a 20 percent movement on our part, and we asked him to please be prepared to sit down at 10 o'clock Monday morning to deal with this issue so that we can get some movement. And it is my earnest hope that we do not have to wait until Wednesday or Thursday or Friday to begin serious negotiations on this. We have moved. And as far as I am concerned, we need to see movement on the other side.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their comments.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I did not have a chance to listen to all of the discussion on the schedule, but I just have a question either for you or Mr. OBEY. We are trying our darnedest to have the Labor-HHS bill filed by Monday night. That would require the presence of the principals here tomorrow and possibly Saturday.

I wonder if that would be possible for the minority principals to be here?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. As the gentleman well knows, we have stayed here for three weekends waiting to find someone to negotiate with. And as the gentleman also well knows, no one with the power to make decisions on the issues has been here.

I do not have any intention of sitting around for another weekend waiting for the persons who have the authority to make the decisions to come around.

It is obvious that the chairman from the other body is not prepared to make any movement whatsoever in negotiations. It is also obvious that it is the leadership of both caucuses that is making the decision about what the contents are in these bills.

And so far as I know, they are going to be roaming around the country again, which is their right, performing their duties on behalf of candidates running for reelection. But I am not about to again not go to my own district waiting for meetings that will not happen.

We asked that people be prepared to meet at 10 o'clock Monday morning. We laid an offer on the table. We are giving their side and both the Senate and the House Chambers an opportunity to respond to it, and we have asked and Senator STEVENS has indicated that he would like to meet on Monday to discuss this.

My question would be, when will the Speaker and the majority leader and the majority whip in this House and the majority leader on the Senate side and the majority whip on the Senate side be available next week so that we can in fact get these decisions made?

You and I know that if we could work out a deal between the two of us we would have it done in an hour. We know that. But every time we try to get a decision out of the Committee on Appropriations, we get vetoed by somebody on your side.

The House made an offer to us of several billion dollars earlier in the week. That was taken off the table tonight by the Senate chairman of the subcommittee. That is not a way to negotiate. I do not think the gentleman from Florida would negotiate that way, and we did not appreciate being stiffed on it this evening.

So we will be prepared to meet any time that your leadership is in town in

both Chambers so that when we get stiffed again, we can go to someone else who has the authority to provide some movement. I hope it is by Monday, but I frankly would be surprised if even then we get movement from them.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. If the gentleman would yield further, the principals that are necessary to conclude this agreement on the Labor, Health and Human Services bill will be available tomorrow or Saturday.

Mr. OBEY. Would you name them, please.

Mr. YOUNG Of Florida. I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. Could you say that again?

Mr. OBEY. Would you name who would be available tomorrow?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. The gentleman knows who the principals are that need to be here.

Mr. OBEY. We just met with the principals and got stiffed. We were just told by the principal from your party on the Senate side I would not move one dollar. And we were asked by the Senate chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to sit down and meet Monday. I expect and I hope that we will find him more reasonable than we have found the principals that we have been dealing with.

We had seven meetings with the principals and we have gotten the same thing out of them every time, no movement. That is not the way we are going to end this session.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield further, I want to respond to my friend from Wisconsin that he knows who the principals are. He also knows who the one big principal is at the White House. And I think he also knows that we finally, just this evening, got the offer from the White House that we have been waiting for for quite some time.

It is essential, if we are going to negotiate, we need an offer and a response.

Mr. OBEY. You got the offer. We are waiting for your response. We were told that we would get it on Monday. And I am relying on Senator STEVENS, he is a man of good faith, and I am relying on you to be ready Monday to deal with it. But I have been here for a month.

The Speaker has gone to his district; he has gone all over the country campaigning for people. The majority leader has. The majority whip has. I have been stuck here like a fugitive on a chain gang waiting for somebody in the leadership on your side of the aisle with the power to negotiate to actually engage in negotiations. And, as you know, all we get is no, no, no.

We have moved 20 percent off our position. But we are not going to leave here, as the distinguished minority whip says, until we get a Labor-HHS bill that provides an additional ability to reduce class size, to train more teachers in a better fashion, to provide

for after-school centers, to provide for the same level of Pell Grant funding that you yourself said you wanted in May, and to provide additional funding for the disabled.

That is what we are asking for, along with the school construction. And we moved 20 percent from our position today. The only answer we got from your side is no movement. And so there is no point in meeting with the same four people all around because we get no new results.

So what we are hoping is that we will get different results by moving it to a different level, and that is what we have been told would take place on Monday.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would further yield, after sifting through everything that I have heard from my dear friend from Wisconsin, I think the answer to my question is, no. He would not be available tomorrow or Saturday or Sunday, but he would be available Monday. And if that is the best we can do, that is the best we can do.

Mr. OBEY. The gentleman knows that I said on this floor and I said to you that I would be prepared to be here any day, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, if your leadership was prepared to be here. Because it is obvious they are the people making the decisions and they have stripped you of all ability to make decisions without checking with them and then they vetoed virtually every decision that you made.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. We are in a position now that we are dealing with the White House. And we finally, just a few minutes ago, got an offer from the White House. The gentleman can stand there and raise his voice all he wants. We just got the offer from the White House.

Now, we would like to have an hour or two to look at it. We would like to meet tomorrow to try to give a response. Hopefully, we can agree to it.

Mr. OBEY. Are we supposed to meet with Senator SPECTER again who says there is no give? We were told we should meet with people at a higher level on Monday. That is what we are doing.

As you well know, your leadership has kept you on a tight leash, and every time we try to negotiate something with the Committee on Appropriations, we are told it is vetoed by your leadership.

If the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) will be in town, if the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) will be in town, if the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) will be in town so the people with the real power over there can make some decisions, you bet I will be in town. But absent their participation in that room, I am not going to waste my time again waiting for a call that has not come. I have waited for three weeks, and I am tired of it.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Well, as the gentleman knows, the names that he mentioned are not members of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. But they do make the choices, do they not? Do you deny that?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. They are leaders. They have the right, and they have the power to make certain decisions, of course, the same as your leadership does. It is a two-sided coin.

Mr. OBEY. The difference is our leadership has given us the power to negotiate.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. The gentleman is not available. That is the answer. The gentleman is not available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) controls the time.

Mr. BONIOR. Since you mentioned our leadership, I would like to, if I could, register a polite complaint, as well.

Since I am the author of the minimum wage bill, I have not been asked to participate in any meetings on this bill that has been languishing now for months and months and months. I am waiting for an opportunity to participate in trying to resolve that. And in waiting for that, we are denying the people who are working so hard in our country for \$5.15 an hour, there is about 10 million of them out there that have been denied about \$2,000, which is a huge percent of their disposable income while we wait and we wait.

We think that there ought to be some movement here. We are willing to be here and meet on that. I have been willing to meet on that for months now. We have not had a meeting on the minimum wage. We have not had a meeting on prescription drugs. We have not had a meeting on some of these other issues that are important to us, like hate crimes and other things. And we certainly have not been able to do the things we need to do on education.

So we are ready to go, and we have been ready to go. I hope we made our point very clear today that this is unacceptable, that three out of 13 bills is unacceptable 3 weeks into the new fiscal year and these other major issues that you guys and you women are campaigning on all over the country with ads you refuse to take up. They are basic issues of justice and equity for poor people, whether they are an HMO bill or a prescription drug bill or a minimum wage bill or basic education issues. We want to do them.

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We hope that you do, too.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear I will be happy to cancel my plane in 5 minutes if the Republican leadership of this House will be